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JORDAN
MEMCONS and EXCHANGES

I. MEMCONS

A. President/Hussein February 6, 1973
 (including Jordanian aide-memoire)

B. HAK/Hussein February 27, 1973
 (including Rifai paper of May 1972)

II. KEY SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES

III. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS

IV. MAPS

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CIA

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30 October 1973

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Jordan

The latest war leaves the US-Jordan equation essentially unchanged. Husayn still looks to Washington for protection and advice, even while he is unable to shake the fear that the US might one day abandon him. He realizes that as a US client Jordan is powerless to exert leverage either with Washington or with his Arab "allies." Although Egypt and Syria sought a rapprochement with Jordan on the eve of the war, the King knows that Sadat and Asad could as easily drop him, as they have done in the past when it served their purposes.

Now, the King will be looking for assurances that he is not going to be left out of the peace because he played a minimal role in the war. He will hope that the US will protect him against the creation of a Palestinian entity that would threaten to swallow Jordan and the last Hashemite throne. He is likely already alarmed by reports that the major fedayeen groups have agreed to push for an independent Palestine on the west bank of the Jordan River and that Egypt and Syria support such a scheme. At the same time, he needs some concession from Israel on Jerusalem that goes beyond making him a mere caretaker of some holy places.

Husayn will also be deeply concerned that fighting not start up again. He will reason that if it does, Israel will resume its advances and the pressures will mount on him to act to relieve hard-pressed Syrians or Egyptians. Jordan, which so far has managed to limit its involvement to the two brigades in Syria, might find these forces in serious trouble, and the danger of an incident along the Jordan-Israel border itself would grow rapidly. The US, of course, would be blamed by the Jordanians for not restraining the Israelis.

Husayn will also have to react to the feeling in his army that Jordan has been "had" in its arms dealings with the US. His officers have pointed to the contrast between the sophistication of the weaponry supplied Israel and the speed

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with which it arrived as compared to their own long-drawn out battles with the US arms sales bureaucracy over what they now think is obsolescent materiel. If the US proves unwilling to supply more advanced weapons in the wake of the recent fighting, the army is in a mood to look elsewhere. With the resumption of the Kuwait subsidy, Husayn has the funds to do so.

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Fact Sheet

NOTE:

The war between Israel and the Arab states in June 1967 ended with Israel in control of West Jordan. Although approx. 930,000 persons resided in this area prior to the start of the war, fewer than 750,000 of them remain there under the Israeli occupation, the remainder having fled to East Jordan. Over 14,000 of those who fled were repatriated in August 1967, but their return has been more than offset by other Arabs who have crossed and are continuing to cross from West to East Jordan. These and certain other effects of the Arab-Israeli war are not included in the data below.

PEOPLE:

Population: 2,504,000 (including West Bank and East Jerusalem), average annual growth rate 3.1% (current)
Ethnic divisions: 98% Arab, 1% Circassian, 1% Armenian

GOVERNMENT:

Type: constitutional monarchy
Capital: Amman
Political subdivisions: 8 districts (3 are under Israeli occupation) under centrally appointed officials
Legal system: based on Islamic law and French codes; constitution adopted 1952;
Branches: King holds balance of power; Prime Minister exercises executive authority in name of King; Cabinet appointed by King and responsible to parliament; bicameral parliament with Chamber of deputies last chosen by national elections in April 1967, Senate last appointed by King in September 1971; each house contains equal representation from East and West Jordan; present parliament subservient to executive as a result of rigged elections (April 1967)
Member of: Arab League, FAO, IAEA, IATA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IFC, ILO, IMF, ITU, UN, UNESCO, UPU, WHO, WMO

ECONOMY:

GNP: \$600 million (1972 est.), \$250 per capita
Agriculture: main crops--wheat, fruits, vegetables, olive oil; not self-sufficient in many foodstuffs
Major industries: phosphate mining, petroleum refining, and cement production

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ECONOMY (cont'd):

Exports: \$47 million (f.o.b., 1972); major items--fruits and vegetables, phosphate rock; Communist share 5% of total (1971)

Imports: \$271 million (c.i.f., 1972); major items--petroleum products, textiles, capital goods, motor vehicles, foodstuffs; Communist share 17% of total (1971)

Aid: economic--US, \$618 million economic assistance (FY49-71), of which \$32 million loans, \$585 million grants; technical assistance; military--\$191 million total from US (July 1949-March 1971) including \$72 million in MAP grants

DEFENSE FORCES:

Personnel: army 64,300, navy 190, air force 4,900 (120 pilots), Public Security Force (National Police) 5,700 (S)

Aircraft: 76 (55 jet, 14 prop, 1 turboprop, 6 helicopters) (S)

Supply: dependent on outside sources; US, UK, France and West Germany principal suppliers of military equipment (C)

Military budget: for fiscal year ending 31 December 1972, \$123,100,000; about 47.3% of total budget (C)

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